



# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

April 23, 2023

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



They set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"  
- Lk 24:33-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30 PM	Tuesday, 8:00 AM
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Friday, 8:00 AM

### Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

**Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal**  
[caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager**  
[tnmiller@sssbv.org](mailto:tnmiller@sssbv.org)

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ [sssbv.org](http://sssbv.org)



#### **Baptism Preparation**

Third Wednesday of every month. Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

#### **Religious Education/Formation**

Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

#### **(RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

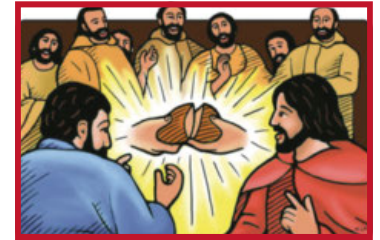
Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, please call the Faith Formation Office.

#### **Reconciliation**

**Confessions are on Saturday:** Epiphany—11:30 a.m. and St. Sebastian—3:30 p.m.. You may also call at any time for an appointment for confession.

**Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor**  
[mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

## *From the Pastor*—Walking Along to Emmaus



During these weeks of Easter we are given the opportunity to revisit the experiences of the early disciples and their discovery of what the Risen Lord brought to their lives. This week in our first two readings we get a glimpse of just how much of an impact the Risen Jesus had on the early followers. In the first reading we are reminded that the Resurrection of Christ is certainly not the end of the story, for it brings forth the outpouring of the Holy Spirit showing us that Easter and Pentecost are inseparable. The author of the second reading shows us how important it is to understand the importance of the signs and symbols of the Old Testament and the way in which they refer to Christ. From this reading we understand how God's relationship with Israel, and now with Christians, highlights God's binding covenant.

Our Gospel from Luke this week gives us one of the most memorable accounts of the Risen Christ appearing to the disciples. We listen to the story about the road to Emmaus and how the disciples came to know Jesus. Although the story pertains to Cleopas and his companion, the impact of what transpires certainly is a part of all of our lives. It deals with the everyday events that we all experience. In today's story we find two of Jesus' closest companions walking along so absorbed in what had happened. They were so focused on their conversation that they really weren't paying much attention to what was going on around them. We have all had those experiences where we were so involved with something that we miss things happening right under our noses. Did you ever have one of those experiences where you get into your car so absorbed in thought that you really are not paying attention to what you were doing. The next thing you know you have arrived at your destination and you have no recollection of how you got there. Whether it is big things or little things, we sometimes become so riveted on something, that we easily miss the bigger picture.

This is exactly what those disciples were experiencing. When Jesus came right up to them and began speaking, they failed to recognize him for who he was. They simply continued with their own agenda and thoughts. How often in life have we failed to recognize the Risen Lord in the people we live and work with? We become so focused on whatever we feel is important that we absolutely fail to see what is really important, the presence of Christ. This story about the road to Emmaus is our story. We would all do well to take a lesson from the experience of those disciples. Nothing in life is so important that it should keep us from seeing the presence of the Risen Lord in all of life. If we stay focused on that, it is amazing how much of life we can appreciate. Like the disciples on that road to Emmaus, we must make the Risen Christ known through our own words and deeds. But to do so, we, too must expand our vision; we must assess our expectations and refocus our lives on Jesus. Our daily reaching out to others is our daily walk with the risen Jesus. Do we recognize him in the need and dignity of others?

**DLA**—Lent is over and there are only a few more weeks left in this year's DLA campaign. So far we have only heard from about 29% of our parish bringing in \$46,630, which is pretty far from our Diocesan goal of \$64,057! I don't know why we have such a hard time reaching our goal, but when we have 70% of the people in our parish who have not responded, it certainly explains things.

**All I am asking of you is that you participate in some way.** If you have not yet responded, won't you consider making a gift? Again, if you have any questions or issues about this year's campaign, please let me know and I will gladly talk with you.

**Halupki Dinner**—**Sunday May 7** from 11 am until food is sold-out. St. John the Baptist Church, Perryopolis for **take out only**. To order call 724-736-4442.

### Stewardship of Treasure—April 16, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,204.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	30.00
Votives:	\$	216.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	180.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	60.00
Easter:	\$	625.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	20.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	40.00
Lenten Season Offering:	\$	130.00
Good Friday:	\$	295.00

**Total April 15/16**      **\$ 7,800.00**

**Ravioli Dinner**—Eat in or take out, **today, April 23** from 12-Noon—4:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Anne, Rostraver. Cost is \$15.

Consider online giving, click the "my Eoffering" button on our parish website

## First Holy Communion

Last week, **Braelynn Bilski, Brooklyn Kapp, Youghioheny Keane, Isaiah VanSickle and Andrew Waligur** celebrated their First Holy Communion.

This is a special time in their lives, as well as, the life of our parish family. May the Grace of God continue to grow stronger in their hearts. Congratulations!



## Heifer International

Throughout Lent our parish collected money for the Heifer Project. As a parish we collected a little over \$2,400! Even though we did not fill the ARK, we certainly did purchase some animals which will enrich the lives of many people. I am grateful to you for your participation in this Stewardship project. It is just one more way that we are able to touch the lives of so many people around the world with our generosity!

## Baked Goods Needed

Baked Goods are needed for the Joint St. Sebastian & Epiphany of Our Lord Purse Bash that will take place on **April 30** at Epiphany Parish Hall. You may bring your donation to St. Sebastian Parish Office this Friday, **April 28**, between 11:30 and 2:30. Thank you for helping make this joint effort a success.

## Liturgies of the Week

### April 22—Vigil

4:30 pm James Monack Sr.—Parents, Frank & Deanna Monack  
*Sacrament of First Eucharist*

### April 23—Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish  
*Sacrament of First Eucharist*  
11:00 am Dr. David Brougher—Wife, Carole  
*Sacrament of First Eucharist*

### Monday, April 24—St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

No Mass Today

### Tuesday, April 25—St. Mark

8:00 am Andy Bury—Wife, Jeannette

### Wednesday, April 26

No Mass Today

### Thursday, April 27

No Mass Today

### Friday, April 28—St. Peter Chanel/St. Louis

**Grignon de Montfort**

8:00 am Dolores Frazier—Dave & Donna Atkinson

### Saturday, April 29—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*  
4:30 pm Felix J. Lisovich—Lou & Pat Toth

### April 30—Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am In Memory of Helen Yencsik's 100th Birthday—Daughter, Mary & Family  
11:00 am Thot & Niccolai Families—Bob & Sharon  
Niccolai & Family  
*Sacrament of Baptism*

**THE ROSARY IS PRAYED SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM, PRIOR TO THE 9:00 AM MASS. PLEASE JOIN US!**

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE—April 29/30

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	C. Gorski	S. Wawro	R. Buretz
9:00 am	M. Shaughnessy	B. Moskovitz	C. Frank
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	R. Messick	H. Miller

**Paschal Candle Flowers**—This week the Paschal Candle flowers are in memory of Irene & Jim Mendicino by the Rick & Bev.

**Altar Candle Ring Flowers**—This week's altar flowers are in memory of Genevieve & Ben Lubecki by Rick & Bev.



## Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: **MARIO FAZZINI**. We extend our sympathy his family. May he rest in peace.

## ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH FUNDRAISER CRAFT & VENDOR EXPO

SATURDAY MAY 6, 2023

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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